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St. Albans
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1947.

ST. ALBANS:
PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Albans Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1947.

General Statistics.

The District is now comprised of 8 Parishes instead of 7 as in our last Report for, by an Order made by the Minister of Health on 7th March, 1947, and known as the London Colney and Colney Heath Parishes Order 1947, the old Parish of St. Peter's was dissolved and out of it were formed two Parishes to be known as London Colney and Colney Heath.

The total area of the District is 32,084 acres made up as follows :—

<i>Parish.</i>			<i>Acres.</i>
Harpenden	...	...	2,854
Redbourn	...	...	4,401
St. Michael's	...	...	5,403
Wheathampstead	...	..	6,225
Sandridge	...	...	3,572
St. Stephen's	...	...	5,157
London Colney	...	...	1,752
Colney Heath	...	...	2,720

Population (estimated), 24,930.

Rateable Value, £172,976.

Vital Statistics.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population	Death Rate per 1000 Population	Deaths under 1 Year per 1000 Births
England and Wales	20·5	12·0	41
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London	23·3	13·0	47
148 Smaller Towns (1931 Census 25,000 to 50,000)	22·2	11·9	36
London	22·7	12·8	37
St. Albans Rural	16·5	9·2	54

Mortality Table.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	4	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	...	...	...
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	...	1	1
Influenza	1	2	3
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	1	1
Cancer	23	16	39
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	9	16	25
Heart Disease	38	22	60
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	3	10
Bronchitis	1	4	5
Pneumonia	5	7	12
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	...	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	2	1	3
Appendicitis	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases ..	2	3	5
Nephritis	2	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis, &c. ... ..	...	...	...
Premature Birth	3	2	5
Congenital Malformation	3	5	8
Suicide	1	1	2
Accidents	3	1	4
Other Violent Causes... ..	3	3	6
Cerebrospinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	...	1	1
All other Causes	9	12	21
All Causes... ..	117	109	226

Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year 1947.

DISEASES.	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria	4	2
Scarlet Fever	14	3
Pneumonia	13	...
Erysipelas	4	...
Flexner Dysentery	120	...
Whooping Cough	49	2
Measles	60	1
Jaundice/Hepatitis	4	...
Poliomyelitis... ..	1	1
Infectious Mononucleosis...	1	1
Paratyphoid B.	24	24
Pulmonary T.B.	47	...
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	6	...
Total	347	34

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...
15	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	2	5	...	...	...	1	...	...
25	9	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
35	4	7	...	...	...	3	...	...
45	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
55	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	26	20	3	3	3	7	...	...

Diphtheria Immunisation 1947.

Under 5 years...	...	...	...	142
5—14 years ...	...	..	...	2
Boosting Doses...	...	...	...	482

Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Thirty rooms were disinfected following cases of infectious diseases. Four houses were treated for the eradication of vermin by the application of D.D.T. preparations.

Paratyphoid Outbreak, Wheathampstead. 19th July—13th September, 1947.

This outbreak which occurred during a spell of excessively hot and dry weather affected 24 persons, viz. :—4 men, 10 women and 10 children. It was confined to a small community and did not spread beyond the Parish. In all 900 specimens were collected for laboratory examination comprising specimens of urine, fæces, sewage plant effluents, milk, drinking water, and water from a nearby river.

Work under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Two hundred and thirty-five complaints of alleged nuisances were received and, of these, 209 were satisfactorily dealt with by informal action, leaving twenty-six outstanding at the end of the year. In one case it was found necessary to serve an abatement notice and to take Court proceedings.

One statutory notice was served under Section 50 requiring a cesspool which overflowed to be cleansed, and one statutory notice was served under Section 39 requiring the provision of satisfactory drainage to a dwelling-house.

Thirty-two informal and two formal notices were served under Section 44, and fourteen informal and two formal notices were served under Section 47 requiring the replacement of pail closets by water closets. As a result a total of 36 pail closets were replaced by water-closets.

Thirty-one informal and seventeen formal notices were issued under Section 45 requiring the provision of adequate flushing facilities in connection with existing water closets and the required work was completed in twenty-four cases.

Informal notices under Section 75 calling for the provision of dustbins were served in respect of one hundred and seventy-three premises.

Moveable Dwellings.

At the 31st December, 1947, twenty-seven licences issued under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were in operation, being an increase of one over the figure at 31st December, 1946.

Housing.

Ten houses which had been the subject of confirmed demolition or clearance orders prior to the outbreak of war were demolished. Seven of these had been occupied under licence until the families concerned could be rehoused. Licences issued under the authority of Defence (General) Regulation No. 68A are in operation permitting the occupation of twenty-five houses which are the subject of confirmed demolition or clearance orders. Five of these houses were purchased by the

Council with a view to improving their sanitary circumstances and thus permit of their being occupied for a further limited period.

Four houses which had been placed in Category 5 in the recent Rural Housing Survey and in respect of which informal notices were served requiring certain improvements, were offered for sale by auction by the owner and were purchased by the Council, and proposals respecting the works required thereat are under consideration.

Water Supplies.

By the end of the year negotiations had reached an advanced stage regarding the provision of piped water supplies to serve Amwell, Nomansland and Bower Heath in the Parish of Wheathampstead, and the Aubrey Estate in the Parish of Redbourn, while the work of laying a main to serve Old Bricket Wood in the Parish of St. Stephen's had actually commenced.

With the consent of the Statutory Undertakers and by arrangement with the Hill End Hospital Authorities from whom the supply is purchased in bulk through a meter, the Council laid a water main through Tyttenhanger Green in the Parish of Colney Heath. This has been greatly appreciated by all the residents as the majority of the wells there were unreliable. Already thirty-two of the forty premises within easy reach of the new main have taken the supply.

5,292 dwellings out of a total of 6,330 dwellings in the District are supplied from Waterworks. Of these 94.63% are supplied from the water mains direct

to the houses and the remaining 5.37% by means of stand-pipes. With one exception, viz.: that to the Aubreys Estate, Redbourn, the quality of the waters is satisfactory and the supplies are constant. There is no evidence of liability to plumbo-solvent action.

In Appendix A to this report details are given regarding the number of dwellings served by each Water Undertaker supplying in the St. Albans Rural District, and in Appendix B figures are given with respect to dwellings in each Parish which are supplied from Waterworks.

Sewerage.

No sewers are available in the following areas :—

- (a) the whole of the Parish of St. Stephen's Rural, except for a privately constructed sewer which serves the 111 houses forming the Christmas Estate.
- (b) certain developed localities within the Parish of Wheathampstead and particularly the Luton Road locality.
- (c) a considerable area within the Parish of Colney Heath, and particularly Colney Heath Lane, Hatfield Road, Tyttenhanger Green, and the Main Road, Tollgate Road, and Roestock Lane, Colney Heath.
- (d) that part of London Colney which lies south of the River Colne.
- (e) the whole of the Parish of St. Michael's Rural.
- (f) the whole of the Parish of Harpenden Rural.

Sewer extensions to serve the outstanding properties at St. Albans Road, Sandridge, were completed in May, and at the end of the year the work in connection with the installation of a rider sewer along an accommodation road lying off Hempstead Road, Redbourn was in hand.

Negotiations proceeded with respect to the proposed provision of main drainage within the Parish of St. Stephen's and considerable progress was made.

The proposed schemes for the Lower Luton Road area of Wheathampstead and for certain areas in the Parish of Colney Heath also received close attention.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	21	38	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies ...	51	78	5	Nil
TOTAL ...	72	116	7	Nil

2—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	1	1	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	4	3	...	2	...
(a) insufficient ... ..	...	...	..	...	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	2	2	...	...	...
TOTAL	12	11	Nil	2	Nil

Milk.

The standard of milk production maintains a fairly satisfactory level.

There are 59 registered Cowsheds in the District located as follows:—

<i>Parish.</i>			
Harpenden Rural	...	...	3
Redbourn	...	...	13
St. Michael's Rural	...	...	6
London Colney	...	...	2
Colney Heath	...	...	3
St. Stephen's Rural	...	...	12
Sandridge	...	...	10
Wheathampstead	...	...	10
Total			59

The following licences are in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders:—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Licensing Authority.</i>
Tuberculin Tested Milk ... (Production of)	18	County Council,
Accredited Milk ... (Production of)	12	County Council.
Supplementary Licences re- specting the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	5	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licences re- specting the sale of Pas- teurised Milk ...	5	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licences re- specting the sale of Accredited Milk ...	2	Sanitary Authority.

The number of registered retailers actively engaged in the distribution of Milk in the District is twenty.

Registrations under Section 14— Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Thirty-nine premises which are used in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice cream or preserved foods, etc., are registered under the above-mentioned Act. Of these six are used for the manufacture of Ice Cream and seventeen are used in connection with the sale of Ice Cream.

Meat Inspection.

During the year 9,831 animals were slaughtered by the Ministry of Food at the Government Slaughterhouse, Sandridge. Details are as follows:—

	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep,	Pigs.
Carcases inspected ...	3,333	1,324	4,990	184

Condemnations.

	Carcases	Quarters of Beef	Heads	Livers	Lights	Plucks	Miscel- laneous Pieces of Beef, Mut- ton and Pork.
Beasts...	41	40	316	529	574	...	690 lbs.
Calves...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Sheep ...	7	...	...	51	...	2
Pigs ...	4	...	6	1	...	4	

Public Cleansing.

Public cleansing is carried out by direct labour. The work includes refuse collection, nightsoil collection, and cesspool emptying.

Refuse Collection.

Four side-loading vehicles are maintained for this work, three being in constant service and one held as a spare machine. Each vehicle is fitted to haul a salvage trailer. Collections are made at intervals of rather under two weeks, but every effort must be made to get back to once-weekly collections. All refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping and three tips are operated, viz.: one at the old gravel pits, Nomansland, in the Parish of Sandridge, one at an old chalk pit on Hedges Farm at Harper Lane, near Radlett, and one at Bartons Dell, Dunstable Road, Redbourn.

Nightsoil Collection.

A once-weekly collection is made wherever the service is required. One vehicle operated by one man is engaged on the work, and the nightsoil is deposited on agricultural land. In all 641 pails are dealt with as follows:—

<i>Parish.</i>			<i>Pails.</i>
St. Stephen's...	...	...	130
London Colney	...	...	32
Colney Heath	...	...	198
Sandridge ...	...	...	30
Wheathampstead	...	...	138
Harpenden Rural	...	...	15
Redbourn ...	...	...	96
St. Michael's Rural	...	...	2
			<hr/>
			641
			<hr/>

Cesspool Emptying.

A fleet of four Dennis cesspool emptying vehicles is operated and the question of the acquisition of a further vehicle was under consideration at the end of the year. All cesspools excepting those serving properties which are within 100 feet of a public sewer and which are at a level which makes it reasonably practicable to construct a drain to communicate with a public sewer are cleansed free of charge.

It is a most formidable task, the extent of which is governed by many factors. Unfortunately a very high percentage of the cesspools are not watertight and so the nature of the subsoil, the level of the subsoil water, and the prevailing weather conditions, have an important influence on the rate at which the cesspools fill up and so whenever there is a prolonged period of inclement weather an intolerable situation develops. This was amply demonstrated during the severe winter of 1946-47. At the 9th of November, 1946, the number of cesspools awaiting attention was 15, on the 7th December the figure was 117, on the 11th January, 1947, it was 144, on the 8th February 169, on the 8th March 175, on the 5th April, 340, and on the 10th May, 362. The danger to the public health from such a state of affairs is of course a very real one, and it is clear that the proposed sewerage schemes, and particularly the scheme for the Parish of St. Stephen's, should have the utmost priority. Should however there be any undue delay in the installation and operation of public sewers in that Parish there are two matters which must cause further disquiet (1) the likelihood of further building development which would inevitably aggravate the problem and (2) the

absence of any security of tenure in respect of our main site for the disposal of cesspool sewage. Should this site be lost the cesspool emptying service would be strained to the utmost and we would be faced with a most serious situation.

In Appendix C to this report statistics are given with respect to cesspools which are cleansed by the Council.

Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

Section 26.

Under the provisions of the above Act permission to deposit refuse within the St. Albans Rural District has been granted in respect of three sites, namely :—

Land on the south side of Codicote Road, Wheat-hampstead, known as Black Bridge Tip and owned and operated by Messrs. Inns & Company of London.

An old gravel pit at North Orbital Road, Smallford, in the Parish of Colney Heath owned by Messrs. Inns & Company of London.

Part of a field on the north side of Park Lane, Colney Heath, owned and occupied by Mr. S. G. Turner.

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Appendix A.

SUPPLIER	Number of Dwellings Supplied		Total
	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES	BY MEANS OF STAND-PIPES	
St. Albans Rural District Council ...	642	38	680
St. Albans Waterworks Company ...	2486	74	2560
The Barnet District Gas & Water Company ...	349	16	365
Harpenden Water Company ...	730	90	820
The Colne Valley Water Company	200	45	245
Borough of Hemel Hempstead ...	42	...	42
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company	33	1	34
Hill End Hospital Estate ...	111	...	111
Tyttenhanger Green Water Main ... (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply)	12	20	32
Napsbury Hospital Estate ...	71	...	71
Middlesex Colony Estate ...	28	...	28
Gorhambury Estate and adjacent Crown Property (Plant operated by Crown Commissioners)	69	...	69
Miss Walker's Estate, Redbourn ...	59	...	59
Christmas Estate, Bricket Wood ...	103	...	103
Childwickbury Estate, St. Albans ...	60	...	60
Aubrey Estate, Redbourn ...	13	...	13
	5008	284	5292

Appendix B.

Parish	Water Undertakers supplying in Parish.	Number of dwellings supplied		Total number of dwellings supplied by each Undertaker.	Total number of dwellings in Parish supplied from Waterworks	Percentage of dwelling houses in Parish supplied from Waterworks
		Direct to the Houses.	By means of Standpipes.			
Sandridge ...	St. Albans Waterworks Company ...	488	56	544	544	89·92
Wheathampstead...	Harpenden Water Company ... Childwickbury Estate ...	675 1	75 ...	750 1	751	75·86
Harpenden Rural...	Harpenden Water Company ...	55	15	70	70	63·64
Redbourn ...	St. Albans Rural District Council ... Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) ... Miss Walker's Estate ... Aubrey Estate ... Childwickbury Estate ...	642 25 59 13 8	38	680 25 59 13 8	758	83·51
St. Michael's ...	Borough of Hemel Hempstead ... St. Albans Waterworks Company ... Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) ... Childwickbury Estate ... Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co.	42 32 44 51 17	... ... ... ... ...	42 32 44 51 17	186	84·55
St. Stephen's ...	The Colne Valley Water Company ... St. Albans Waterworks Company ... Middlesex Colony Estate ... Christmas Estate, Bricket Wood ... Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co.	161 930 14 103 16	28 18 1	189 978 14 103 17	1301	86·16
London Colney and Colney Heath	St. Albans Waterworks Company ... The Barnet District Gas & Water Company ... The Colne Valley Water Company ... Napsbury Hospital Estate ... Hill End Hospital Estate ... Tyttenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply) Middlesex Colony ...	1006 349 39 71 111 12 14	... 16 17 20 ...	1006 365 56 71 111 32 14	1655	84·65

Appendix C.

STATISTICS RESPECTING CESSPOOLS IN THE DISTRICT WHICH ARE CLEANSED BY THE COUNCIL.

Parish	Number Emptied on request	Number Emptied at regular intervals	Totals	Cesspools already included in Column 4 but in respect of which a charge is made for cleansing because they are within 100 feet of a Sewer or for other reasons	Cesspools already included in Column 4 which although within 100 feet of a Sewer are, for various reasons, cleansed free of charge
(1) St. Stephen's	(2) 751	(3) 12	(4) 763	(5) Nil	(6) Nil
Colney Heath	168	7	175	Nil	Nil
London Colney	24	5	29	5	Nil
Redbourn	52	Nil	52	7	8
Sandridge	23	Nil	23	5	Nil
Wheatthampstead	138	4	142	10	1
St. Michael's	57	Nil	57	Nil	Nil
Harpenden Rural	49	Nil	49	Nil	Nil
Grand Totals	1262	28	1290	27	9

